

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 04

AS AT 3 NOVEMBER 2024

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	3	3	0	29	1	9	38
MORPETH A	3	3	0	24	6	9	33
CASTAWAYS	3	2	1	21	9	9	30
NAT WEST	2	1	0	7	13	6	13
COMETS C	3	0	0	4	26	9	13
COMETS B	2	0	0	6	14	6	12
PRO	2	0	1	5	15	6	11
OUTCASTS	2	0	0	4	16	6	10

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

- Individual match details can be found on the website at

https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Active_Season_24-25/Division_One

- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?
- Want a trip down memory lane? Every weekly bulletin issued since the 2014-15 season can be found on the website under the “Div Sec Reports” heading

COMMENTARY

Week 04

We begin this week with unbeaten Morpeth against Outcasts. Morpeth is as usual: Toan To, Duncan Brown and Chris Alexander. Outcasts are struggling to get a full side this season and bring in Bing Siah who played for Good Karma a few seasons ago. He's joined by Bob Coull and Petko Guimichev. First set it's Guimichev against To. Momentum swings backwards and forwards over the first four ends. Honours are even and there's no obvious winner in sight yet. In first four ends all bar one were won quite comfortably. That often points to a deuce in the fifth conclusion. On to the deciding end but it's quickly clear that a deuce finish is unlikely. It's To who pulls ahead and, there's no catching him, it's a 11-7 in the fifth win! A close contest to set us going! Bob Coull then takes on Duncan Brown. I think the head-to-head record favours Duncan. The first two ends were mighty close, each being won at deuce. The third end is also won by a narrow two point margin and it goes to Duncan. And that's repeated in the fourth as Duncan steals the win 11-8. 2-0 to Morpeth but it could easily be 0-2. Bing Siah then makes his debut for Outcasts, against Alexander. Once again, the first two ends were close and shared 1-1. The third end goes to Siah by an 11-7 margin. And at that point the recurrent theme of narrowly won sets was broken as Siah ran away with the set to cruise home 11-1. Outcasts get one on the board. Sets four, five and six were all nail biters. First, Coull looked to have To beaten, leading after three ends only to lose the fourth and then the fifth. Tough luck for Bob. Then Chris Alexander was making life hard for Guimichev levelling their set at two ends each before Petko pulled away in the fifth to win it 11-5. More drama followed as Siah faced Duncan Brown. Now I don't think these two have played each other before. Siah comes roaring out of the starting blocks to take the first two ends. Duncan fights back and makes it two ends each. We're seeing a lot of long sets tonight but none of them end narrowly. And that's what happened again as Duncan completes the comeback with an 11-6 victory. Set seven and again we witnessing another titanic struggle. It's Coull against Alexander and yet again we reach two ends each. And strangely yet again the final end is a runaway, finishing 11-3 to Bob. So far we've watched seven sets, five of which have gone the full distance and Morpeth are leading 4-3. Sets eight and nine were shared. To completes his fourth maximum of the season beating Siah three straight. And, finally, Guimichev takes four ends to beat Duncan Brown (ironically one of the few sets I'd have predicted

to go to five)! Morpeth clearly wanted to get home in a hurry as they brushed aside Outcasts in the doubles to register a 6-4 outcome. Well done to both teams! A really close hotly contested match!

In past seasons PRO against Castaways has usually resulted in an easy win for Castaways. But not always. Now and again PRO seem to up their game and push Castaways hard. Was this going to be one of these nights? Teams were Crawford, Persaud and Turner for PRO and Bispham, LeMilliere and Loveder for Castaways. Things began well for PRO with Crawford beating Bispham three ends to one. This was one of the sets that PRO had to win to have a chance of winning the match. PRO also need Jai Persaud to win one of his sets and things were looking good as Jai led Loveder by two ends to one. At that moment Mike went up a gear and won the fourth and fifth ends comfortably. Castaways are level at 1-1. Next up, it's LeMilliere against Crawford. This is a set which could go either way but Crawford dominated the first end to post a 11-2 victory. I expect Neil will now fight back but the second end eluded him too by a narrow 11-9 margin. This could still be close. In the third end LeMilliere finds himself in the last chance saloon as the score reaches 10-10. Do we go on or does the contest end here? It ended here as Crawford takes the next two points to pull off a three straight victory. Good win and things are looking bright for PRO. Persaud then lost to Bispham. More crunch sets are to follow. Turner and Loveder are all square after two ends and remain all square after four ends. In the decider it's Ronnie who covers himself in glory taking an 11-6 victory after 94 points. The next set - LeMilliere versus Persaud – usually goes Neil's way but it's often not easy. But 10 minutes later it was all over as Neil put in a very business-like performance to win three straight. The next set is another crunch set as Turner faced Bispham. If PRO are going to pull off a shock win, Ronnie must win at least two of his sets. Bispham takes the first two ends comfortably and Ronnie's hopes look slim. But he fights back and takes the next two ends to force a decider. The final end went all the way to 10-10 before Ronnie emerged victorious with a 12-10 outcome. Good win! Last time they played, Loveder beat Crawford with ease. Looks like history will repeat itself as Mike takes the first end. But then it all fell apart for Mike as he lost the next three ends without getting close in any of them. The match score is 5-3 to PRO. So, it's all down to Turner against LeMilliere and the doubles. In keeping with the seesaw nature of the night's table tennis, Turner and LeMilliere won alternate ends to end up needing the deciding end. The winner, and thereby saving Castaways from defeat, was LeMilliere! PRO conceded the doubles given the lateness of the hour so it ended honours even in a 5-5 draw. Good match! Six sets needed four or more ends to reach a resolution!

Last match of the week features Comets A versus their C team. The A team fielded Cain Fagan, Persaud and, for the first time this season, Winston Wong. The C team was Gargrupe, Islam and Woo. This match proved to be a bit of a procession as the A team reeled off set after set with the C team unable to make any headway at all. The first seven sets finished three straight without any drama. Only Eric Woo got near to winning an end. In set eight we suddenly had match on our hands as Greg Gargrupe came from two ends to one down against Wong to force a deciding end. In the event, he just fell short losing 11-6 in the fifth. Further resistance from Adil Islam in set nine as he pinched the second end off Fagan and came close to pinching the fourth end too. But to no avail as he lost in four. After such a one-sided night of singles I wasn't expecting the doubles to last long but I was wrong. It concluded at 11-4 in the fifth. 10-0 to the A team but well done to the C team for making a fight of it!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 3 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
To	MORPETH A	9	9	100.0
Persaud	COMETS A	8	8	100.0
C Fagan	COMETS A	5	5	100.0
Holohan	MORPETH A	3	3	100.0
Marott	MORPETH A	3	3	100.0

S Fagan	COMETS A	3	3	100.0
Sultani	COMETS B	3	3	100.0
Wong	COMETS A	3	3	100.0
Brown	MORPETH A	5	6	83.3
Francis	COMETS A	4	5	80.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	5	7	71.4
Muller	NAT WEST	2	3	66.7
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	2	3	66.7
Sultani	COMETS C	2	3	66.7
Crawford	PRO	3	6	50.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	2	5	40.0
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	2	5	40.0
Turner	PRO	2	6	33.3
Adesanya	COMETS B	1	3	33.3
Bhangoo	COMETS B	1	3	33.3
Johnson	NAT WEST	1	3	33.3
Sharma	COMETS C	1	3	33.3
Siah	OUTCASTS	1	3	33.3
Woo	COMETS B	1	3	33.3
Alexander	MORPETH A	1	6	16.7
Coull	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Islam	COMETS C	1	9	11.1